

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 751

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to recognize Thomas Strickland, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Thomas "Tank" Strickland, Jr., is one such estimable person, who has served as the Community Relations Senior Director for the City of Knoxville and as the Special Assistant to the Mayor for nineteen years and will be embarking on a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, Mr. Strickland is a graduate of Austin East High School, and he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in his role as Senior Director and Special Assistant to the Mayor, Mr. Strickland serves as a liaison between various community organizations and the city's government. His responsibilities include overseeing Knoxville's Equal Employment Program, Title VI/Remedial Action Program, and Police Advisory and Review Committee Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Strickland's many accomplishments include implementing the Equal Business Opportunity Program; developing annual workshops, seminars, and various outreach activities to facilitate the growth and success of local small businesses and those owned by women and minorities; and ensuring that community concerns regarding the Knoxville Police Department are heard and addressed in a fair and factual manner; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Strickland was elected to the Knox County Commission in 2002 to serve the people of the First District; he was selected as vice chairman in 2004 and was

promoted to chairman in 2008, becoming the first African-American chairman in the history of Knox County government; and

WHEREAS, while serving on the Knox County Commission, he oversaw the expansion and relocation of the Burlington Library; the renovation of and addition to the Beck Cultural Exchange Center; the establishment of Five Points Village; the renovation of Holston Middle School; the addition to the John T. O'Conner Center; the establishment of the New Eastside Health Clinic; the addition of a Veterans Nursing Home and Veterans Memorial; and the establishment of the East Tennessee History Center and Williams Creek Golf Course; and

WHEREAS, he also served as chairman of the Administrative Committee and vice chairman of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) board; under his leadership, CAC expanded the local senior center; established five Head Start Centers; gave millions of dollars to relief through LIHEAP; and grew the Mobile Meals program to serve more than 850 seniors; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Thomas Strickland received the Living Legend Award in 2006, Man of the Year award in 2008, the Alex Haley Scholarship Award of Merit for Public Service in 2010, and the Jayne Thomas Grassroots Volunteer Award in 2015. He received a special honor in 2010 when the Knox County government dedicated the Thomas "Tank" Strickland Park to recognize his service to the community; and

WHEREAS, he is married to the love of his life, Terry Michelle Strickland, and they are the proud parents of three children, Jaquai, Ashley, and Sheldon, and the loving grandparents of one grandchild, Kobi; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Thomas Strickland has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the good people of Knoxville and this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Thomas "Tank" Strickland, Jr., on his exceptional career serving the City of Knoxville, commend his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee, and extend

to him our heartfelt best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.